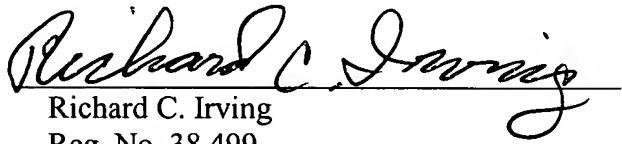


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels claims 1-27 and adds new claims 28-55. Favorable examination and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully solicited. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 13-2491 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Richard C. Irving
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Date: February 17, 2004

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